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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. ▓▓▓▓▓▓

25X1A

COUNTRY	Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT	Russian Plans to Form a New City Government for Berlin
PLACE ACQUIRED	▓▓▓▓▓ 25X1A
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.   25X1X

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1. ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓ Niederschöneweide, 25X1A with Sidnikov of Tass, Hermann Matern, and Josef Orlopp. ▓▓▓ Comment: 25X1A This meeting was a continuation of negotiations by SED representatives and members of the SPD in a common effort to arrange a modus vivendi between the two parties in the event of a western withdrawal from Berlin.)

2. Sidnikov said that he spoke with the authorization of the Political Section of the Komendatura. The Russians will announce the formation of a separate city administration immediately after the anticipated announcement of a western police präsidium. They will argue that the city was split by western connivance of the Magistrat. The Russians expect most of the present officials to move to the western sectors, and are, therefore, making preparations for their own city government, which they will claim as the only legal one.

3. Dr. Arthur Werner will become Oberbürgemeister again, Dr. Ostrowski having been rejected by the SED of the present Magistrat. The Russians think that May and Theuner will go along, as well as the mayors of the Soviet Sector boroughs.

4. The new Magistrat will be constituted on the basis of the 1946 elections with the SED, CDU, LDP coalition holding fifty-two percent of the majority and the SPD as a strong minority. Pro-Russian factions of the CDU and the LDP will be recognized as the real parties instead of the Berlin organizations led by Jakob Kaiser and Karl Schwennicke.

5. Sidnikov now says that the western Allies will remain in Berlin at least until October 1948.

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